

# Clinical Surgery NEWS

**Rachel Guest is a Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Advanced Specialty Training Fellow in HPB Surgery at the University of Edinburgh. Having completed her undergraduate training and intercalated degree at Imperial College London, Rachel moved to the Edinburgh postgraduate foundation programme and was appointed to specialty training in General Surgery in 2008.**



**Clinical Lecturer and Honorary  
Advanced Specialty Training  
Fellow: Rachel Guest**

Rachel has developed a strong clinical interest in hepatobiliary cancers and in 2011 undertook a PhD in Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine to better understand how the molecular signals orchestrating liver regeneration after injury can go awry and result in malignancy.

She was awarded a Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Fellowship and developed a project supervised by Professor Stuart Forbes of the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, and Professor Owen Sansom of the Beatson Institute Glasgow, to investigate the role played by the Notch signalling pathway in bile duct cancer (cholangiocarcinoma). She developed a novel model of cholangiocarcinoma and used fluorescently-tagged bile duct cells to identify the cell of origin of the cancer, as well as using genetic knock-out models to prove one

component of the Notch pathway, the Notch 3 receptor is an independent and critical driver of tumour formation.

In 2015 Rachel was appointed as a Clinical Lecturer in General Surgery and is now working on new projects funded by the Academy of Medical Sciences to improve our molecular understanding of the development of cancer arising from the chronic biliary disease Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis, supervised by Professor Stephen Wigmore. She collaborates closely with Dr Luke Boulter of the Institute of Genetics & Molecular Medicine, Edinburgh and they are working to further build on the hepatobiliary cancer research programme in Edinburgh.

In 2020 Rachel was awarded a Career Development fellowship by The Wellcome Trust to further investigate how the plasticity of liver can contribute to the development of liver cancer. In particular she will examine how mutations in the IDH gene (the most common mutation seen in bile duct cancer) can affect liver cell identity and drive tumour development, especially in the damaged liver. IDH mutations result in the production of an 'oncometabolite' within liver cells which induces epigenetic changes and affects cell differentiation. She will use

***Welcome to the  
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The Department  
of Clinical  
Surgery  
Newsletter***

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in vitro human liver 'organoid' cultures derived from livers unsuitable for clinical transplantation to investigate these questions and assess whether early targeting of IDH might represent an opportunity for cancer prevention in high-risk patients. This project will be supervised by Professor Ian Tomlinson FRS, one of the UK's foremost cancer geneticists and Professor Stephen Wigmore, bringing together a strong team from the Institute of Genetics and Cancer (IGC) and the Department of Clinical Surgery at the University of Edinburgh. She is excited to have the opportunity to be able to work in a unit which allows her to align her clinical practice directly to her research, with the goal of bringing direct benefits to patients with hepatobiliary cancer.

Rachel is a keen advocate for women in surgical training and sits on the IHPBA Early Careers Group and Education & Training committees, as well as the University of Edinburgh Athena Swan SAT committee.

In her spare time Rachel is an enthusiastic walker, cook and gardener and spends as much time as possible in her garden in Haddington.

### Key Publications

Cambridge WA, Fairfield C, Powell JJ, Harrison EM, Søreide K, Wigmore SJ, Guest RV. **Meta-analysis and Meta-regression of Survival After Liver Transplantation for Unresectable Perihilar Cholangiocarcinoma.** *Ann Surg.* 2021 Feb 1;273(2):240-250.

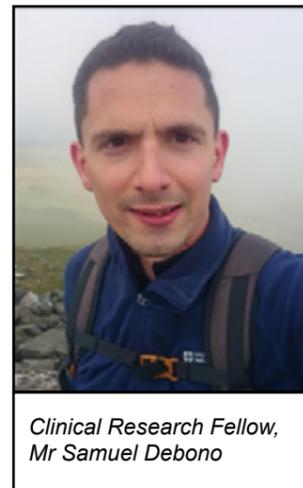
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## News Round-Up



Clinical Research Fellow,  
Mr Samuel Debono

### New Member of Staff Mr Samuel Debono

Sam is a vascular surgery trainee and PhD candidate who joined the Centre for Cardiovascular Science in August 2020, supported by the British Heart

Foundation Research Excellence Award programme.

His project, '*Predicting endoleaks following Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Repair using 18F-Sodium Fluoride: The PET-EVAR Study*', is supervised by Prof David Newby. His research into the use of Positron Emission Tomography using 18F-sodium fluoride in abdominal aortic aneurysms follows on from previous cardiovascular imaging studies in AAA by surgical research fellows, Jenny Robson, Olivia McBride, Rachael Forsythe and Maaz Syed. His main study investigating the use of 18F-NaF PET-CT to predict the development of endoleaks

## Prizes & Appointments

**Hannah Garside**, Year 5 Medical Student won Best Oral Presentation prize at 13th National Conference of Academic Training in Undergraduate Medicine, for her work titled '*Incidence of early-onset colorectal cancer: a population based study*', supervised by **Miss Yasuko Maeda** and **Miss Farhat Din**.

**Peter Vaughan-Shaw** has been appointed as an RCS Hunterian Professor for 2021 and Dukes' Club president for 2020-2021

**Dr Louise Buckley** (ChM Urology) has been appointed associate editor of the journal *Veterinary Evidence* from March 2021.

**Antony Attia**, 4th year medical student won the Calne Williams Medal at the British Transplant Society meeting 2021, for his project '*Transplant benefit score predicts increased pre and post-transplant survival for chronic liver disease patients with hepatocellular carcinoma versus matched patients without: results of a modelling study*', supervised by **Mr Ben Stutchfield**



Antony Attia presents his project online at the 2021

## EUSA Teaching Awards 2021



Congratulations to members of Clinical Surgery and the Edinburgh Surgery Online team for their nominations in this year's

Edinburgh University Students Association Teaching Awards.

*Outstanding Course:* Uzma Tufail-Hanif; Roshini Sanders; Bernhard Wolf

*Support Staff of the Year:* Karen Muir; Sarah Jones; Edward Gamble; Susan Morrow

*Personal Tutor of the Year:* Chantelle Aftab; Oluseye Ogunbayo; Heather Ellis

*Supervisor of the Year:* Louise Buckley; Dominica Coxon; Stephen Knight; Ewen Harrison; Tom Drake

*Teacher of the Year:* Louise Buckley; Baljean Dhillon; Bernhard Wolf;

## Recent Grant Awards

**Rachael Forsythe (PI), Julie Brittenden, Andrew Tambyraja, David Newby, Edwin van Beek, Alex Vesey**

*Predicting endoleaks following endovascular aneurysm repair.*

British Heart Foundation Project Grant  
£293,581

**Professor Malcolm Dunlop**

Cancer Research UK Programme Grant (Renewal)  
£5 million  
2021-2026

## PURE Publication Deposits In Clinical Surgery

The Research Excellence Framework 2021 submission has now been completed. The results are expected to be published in March 2022.

However, publications should still continue to be deposited in PURE within 3 months of acceptance.

### PURE arrangements in Clinical Surgery

Susan Keggie and Murray Brittan are now handling publication deposits in PURE.

As soon as you receive notification of a manuscript being accepted for publication, please forward the acceptance email together with the finally accepted author version to our the PURE email address

**Pure.clinsurg@ed.ac.uk**

All manuscripts must be deposited in PURE within 3 months of acceptance.

## Funding Opportunities

The Wellcome Trust has announced three new funding streams as part of their Discovery Research strategy available as



- Early Career Awards
- Career Development Awards
- Discovery Awards

The awards are designed to support bold and creative research ideas across a broad range of disciplines and will fund people at all career

stages, as long as the research is related to human biology, health and disease.

If you would like to find out more about the schemes, you can listen to a recording of webinar held earlier this month at the Wellcome Trust.

For more information, including registration for the webinar, please see [here](#).



The NIHR has multiple funding calls currently open throughout the year.

For full details, please see their website:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/>



UKRI have launched a new website which allow you to search their funding calls by funder (MRC, BBSRC etc) and by topic, as well as sorting by call deadline.

Visit the new website here:

<https://www.ukri.org>

Other useful resources when searching for funding include the Research Profession web service and Research Support Office Full details of Research Professional, including tutorials on getting started using the site, can be found here.

The Research Support Office can be found at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/research-office>

## Clinical Trials Update

The following trials are now recruiting again:

ALLEGRO: a placebo controlled randomised trial of intravenous lidocaine in accelerating gastrointestinal recovery after colorectal surgery.

PITTSTOP: pilonidal sinus treatment: studying the options:

CIPHER: UK cohort study to investigate the prevention of parastomal hernia

CREST2: Uncovered vs covered endoluminal stenting in the acute management of obstructing colorectal cancer in the palliative setting.

PREPARE ABC: SupPoRtive Exercise Programmes for Accelerating REcovery after major ABdominal Cancer surgery - recruitment due to re-start shortly.

DAMASCUS - Diverticulitis Management: A Snapshot Collaborative Audit Study.

*Congratulations to the team at WGH who are currently the global leaders for recruitment in the Damascus study.*

## Recent Publications

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## Future Events

### 8<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of the World Society of Emergency Medicine: 7-10 September 2021



It is our great pleasure to announce that the Department of Clinical Surgery of the University of Edinburgh is hosting the 8th International Meeting of the World Society of Emergency Surgery (WSES), at the John McIntyre Conference Centre, 7-10th September 2021. We look forward to welcoming emergency/trauma/general surgeons from around the world and the UK

### Items of News to Share?

If you have any items of news you would like to feature in this newsletter or events you'd like to promote please contact the Clinical Surgery Research Manager, **Dr Katie Shaw** (catherine.shaw@ed.ac.uk). The next edition will be published in the summer.

## Future Conference Submission **Deadlines**

Conference	Date	Location	Abstract Submission & Registration
14th Annual Academic Surgical Conference <a href="https://academicsurgicalcongress.org">https://academicsurgicalcongress.org</a>	2nd - 4th Feb 2021	Meeting recordings available	Date for 2022 TBC
ALPS HBP meeting <a href="http://www.alpshpbmeeting.org">http://www.alpshpbmeeting.org</a>	4th - 5th Feb 2021		Date for 2022 TBC
British Transplant Society (BTS) <a href="https://bts.org.uk">https://bts.org.uk</a>	24th - 25th Feb 2021		Date for 2022 TBC
Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) <a href="http://surgicalresearch.org.uk">http://surgicalresearch.org.uk</a>	Mar 2021		Date for 2022 TBC
American Surgical Association (ASA) <a href="http://meeting.americansurgical.org">http://meeting.americansurgical.org</a>	15th - 17th April 2021	Virtual Meeting	Registration Open
European Society for Trauma & Emergency Surgery (ESTES) <a href="https://www.estes-congress.org">https://www.estes-congress.org</a>	25th - 10th April 2021	Virtual Meeting	Registration Open
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress <a href="https://asc.surgeons.org">https://asc.surgeons.org</a>	10th-14th May 2021	Hybrid meeting: virtual-ly/Melbourne, Australia	asc.registration@surgeons.org
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) <a href="http://www.asgbi.org.uk">http://www.asgbi.org.uk</a>	4th- 8th May 2021	Virtual meeting	Registration Open
Joint International Congress of ILTS, LICAGE & ELITA_ ( <a href="https://2021.ilt.org">https://2021.ilt.org</a> )	5th - 8th May 2021	Virtual Meeting	Registration Open
International Association of Medical Science Educators <a href="http://www.iamse.org/">http://www.iamse.org/</a>	12th -17th June 2021	Virtual Meeting	Registration Open
European Surgical Association (ESA) <a href="https://www.europeansurgicalassociation.org">https://www.europeansurgicalassociation.org</a>	13th - 15th May 2021	Cologne, Germany	Registration Open
American Society of Transplane Surgeons (ASTS) ( <a href="http://atcmeeting.org">http://atcmeeting.org</a> )	5th - 9th June 2021	Virtual meeting	Registration Open
Behune Round Table <a href="https://bethuneroundtable.com">https://bethuneroundtable.com</a>	27th - 30 May 2021	Virtual meeting	Registration Open
Association of Coloproctology Great Britain and Ireland <a href="https://www.acpgbi.org.uk/events/2021-acpgbi-annual-meeting/">https://www.acpgbi.org.uk/events/2021-acpgbi-annual-meeting/</a>	5th - 7th July 2021	Harrogate, UK	Save the Date
Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary-Association (AHPBA) <a href="https://www.ahpba.org/">https://www.ahpba.org/</a>	2nd-5th August 2021	Miami beach, Florida, USA	Registration Open
Association for Medical Education (AMEE) <a href="https://amee.org/conferences/amee-2021">https://amee.org/conferences/amee-2021</a>	27th-30th August 2021	Hybrid meeting: Virtual/ Glasgow, UK	Posters: 5th February 2020
European Society of Transplantation (ESOT) <a href="https://www.esotcongress.org">https://www.esotcongress.org</a>	29th Aug - 1st Spet 2021	Milan, Italy	Registration Open
European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (E-AHPBA)	15h - 17th September 2021	Bilbao, Spain	Registration Open
European Society of Coloproctology	22nd -24th September	Hybrid meeting: Virtual/ Barcelona, Spain	Save the Date
Association of Upper GI Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (AUGIS) <a href="http://www.augis.org">http://www.augis.org</a>	13th-15th October 2021	Belfast, UK	Save the Date
American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress <a href="https://www.facs.org/education/clincon/future-clinical-congresses">https://www.facs.org/education/clincon/future-clinical-congresses</a>	24th - 28th Oct 2021	Washington, DC, USA	Save the Date.
British Hernia Society <a href="https://hernia2021.org">https://hernia2021.org</a>	13th - 16th Oct 2021	Copenhagen, Denmark	<b>Abstracts deadline 1/06/21</b>
Society on Sarcopenia, Cachexia & wasting disorders <a href="http://society-scwd.org">http://society-scwd.org</a>	10th -12th Dec 2021	Hybrid - online/ Ljubljana	Save the Date